

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee
Subcommittee on Policies and Procedures

November 3, 2016

MINUTES

Present: Chris Riddle, Chair; Jacqueline Maidana, Vice-Chair; Michael Greenebaum, Clerk; Maurianne Adams, John Hornik, Amher KaCey, Hind Mari, Adrienne Terrizzi

Absent: Janet McGowan

Guest: John Fox

AGENDA

Approve Minutes

Review a request for items to be sent to Town Meeting members

Items not anticipated by the Chair 48 hours prior to the meeting

Public Comment

The meeting was called to order at 4:36. The Minutes of October 18, 2016, were approved. Future meeting times were confirmed as alternate Thursdays at 4-6 pm. The next meeting will be November 17, 2016.

Plans for Special Town Meeting were reviewed. Greenebaum's presentation under Article 1 should be posted on TMCC web site prior to presentation. Greenebaum will send it to Riddle for sending to Mary Streeter for posting and preparing copies for rear table. The presentation has been scheduled by the Moderator. A discussion of Article 13, the TMCC proposal for green, red and white cards, ensued. Riddle will make the motion under the article and speak on its behalf. He will send a draft of his remarks to committee members..

Adams shared McGowan's questions to solicit ideas for improvement from Town Meeting members. After discussion, the committee agreed to prepare a single sheet saying that SPP is considering way of strengthening town meeting and is eager to have ideas from Town Meeting members. The sheet will urge but not require submission by mid-December. SPP names and emails should be included on the sheet which will be available on the rear tables and can be returned by placing them in the TMCC box on the rear table. Adams will format the sheet and will retrieve submitted sheets from the box in the back to share at our next meeting.

The committee then addressed the projects it wished to focus on for presentation at the 2017 Annual Town Meeting and thereafter. Riddle urged that we select two or three as our next proposals.

Greenebaum submitted two proposals in writing to the committee. One would defer votes on motions made from the floor. The other would limit voting to town meeting members elected from precincts. McGowan suggested via email a proposal that important documents and other information be more easily available to town meeting members. She also suggested that Town Meeting member e-mail addresses be easily available to town residents. Hornik proposed the establishment of a Benefits Review Committee, analogous to the Finance Committee, to make recommendations on Warrant articles. Adams suggested a proposal dealing with the obligation of town boards, committees and officials to answer questions asked from the floor. Another proposal would redraw precinct lines to put all student dormitories in one precinct. Still another proposal would require boards and committees to report minority positions if their recommendation resulted from a split vote. The Committee received a proposal from Walter Wolnik that would significantly reduce the size of town meeting, and another proposal from Gerry Weiss that would change the manner of dealing with zoning articles.

Riddle will write to Walter Wolnik acknowledging receipt of his proposal and placing it on our agenda for consideration in due course.

Meeting adjourned at 6 pm

Michael Greenebaum, Clerk